

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6801

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0800

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. BILL LUERS IS IN LENINGRAD TODAY. WILL REFER
QUESTIONS IN STATE 11759 TO HIM TOMORROW WHEN HE
RETURNS.

2. REGARDING ASSIGNMENT PREFERENCES:

A. SANDY GUST: DIXIE GRIMES' SLOT IS HER STRONG
FIRST PREFERENCE, BUT IF IT IS UNAVAILABLE SHE WOULD
BE PLEASED WITH POSITION ON EXCHANGES STAFF. HER LETTER TO THIS
EFFECT IS EN ROUTE. (WE CONCUR THAT SANDY WOULD BE STRONG
CANDIDATE FOR GRIMES POSITION, GIVEN HER EXPERIENCE WITH
CONSTRUCTION AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS HERE.)

B. SHAUN BYRNES: HIS PREFERENCES ARE: (FIRST)
EXTENSION IN MOSCOW FOR YEAR IF POSSIBLE; (SECOND) JIM
HENDERSON'S SLOT IN BILATERAL; (THIRD) CHINESE LANGUAGE
TRAINING (PREVIOUSLY REQUESTED AS SECOND PREFERENCE).
LETTER TO THIS EFFECT SENT JAN 10.

3. REGARDING "EXTENSIONS" FOR BROWN, SKOUG AND
GREENBERG: BROWN'S COMMENTS WILL BE CONVEYED BY LUERS
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UPON LATTER'S RETURN. AS FOR SKOUG AND GREENBERG,
WE ASSUME YOU MEAN BEYOND THREE YEARS, TO WHICH THEY
HAVE ALREADY EXTENDED (I.E., IN SUMMER OF 1980 VICE 1979).
THEY ARE PONDERING THIS QUESTION. IN SKOUG'S CASE
DECIDING FACTOR COULD BE WHETHER APARTMENT IN
CHANCERY WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR HIM IN 1979. I TOLD
HIM THAT ONLY WAY THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE (SHORT OF

DISPLACING POL COUNSELOR OR P&C COUNSELOR) WOULD BE TO REQUIRE DAO TO MOVE ONE OF SENIOR ATTACHES OUT OF CHANCERY. SUCH A STEP WOULD MEET STRONG RESISTANCE (BUT HAS CONSIDERABLE JUSTIFICATION) AND SHOULD BE DECIDED BY MY SUCCESSOR WITH CONCURRENCE OF AMBASSADOR.

4. APPRECIATE FOR OUR INFO RUN-DOWN ON PRESENT SIZE OF SOVIET TRADE REPRESENTATION IN WASHINGTON INCLUDING TOTAL NUMBERS AND BREAKDOWN BY RANK.

5. RE PARA 5, STATE 9257 AND USIA 0929, SITUATION NOW STRAIGHTENED OUT WITH BENSON WHO CONCURS IN PRESENT ARRANGEMENT. WE DEALT WITH PROBLEM WHEN HE WAS ON LEAVE LAST YEAR AND USIA (AND WE) FAILED TO INFORM HIM OF ARRANGEMENT. UNFORTUNATELY IT DID NOT OCCUR TO HIM TO CONSULT ME BEFORE HE GOT ON THE PHONE. I HAVE CAUTIONED HIM MANY TIMES ON USE OF TELEPHONE - AND IN THIS CASE IT WAS PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE IF HE DISCUSSED DETAILS SINCE IT MIGHT SUGGEST TO SOVIETS THAT SOMETHING FISHY IS AFOOT. (RAY MAINTAINS, INCIDENTALLY, THAT USIA 929 WAS TOTALLY UNNECESSARY: THAT HE MEANT ONLY TO SUGGEST THAT EXHIBIT STAFF POSITION MIGHT BE MORE APPROPRIATE THAN GUIDE POSITION.)

6. RE PARA 6, STATE 8178, WE HOPE QUESTION OF
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SUBSTANTIVE ASSIGNMENTS FOLLOWING CURRENT TOUR CAN BE DEFERRED FOR A WHILE. WE DO NOT YET HAVE CLEAR INDICATION OF THEIR SUBSTANTIVE CAPACITY. SO FAR, EXPECTATIONS OF ADVANCE BILLING HAVE NOT BEEN FULLY MET. SINCE EXTENSION BEYOND TWO YEARS IN PRESENT POSITION IS NOT DESIRED, YOU SHOULD PROCEED TO PROJECT REPLACEMENTS WHEN CURRENT TOUR ENDS AND WE CAN LOOK AT QUESTION OF EXTENSION SUBSEQUENTLY.

7. RE SHIPLER ARTICLE (STATE 11449), THIS IS CLEARLY REHASH OF EARLIER STORIES. EXPLANATION OF EMBASSY PROCEDURES SUBMITTED THEN STILL HOLDS. THERE IS NO "ORDER" AGAINST MEETINGS IN PUBLIC PLACES AND DISSIDENTS' HOMES, ALTHOUGH THIS IS DISCOURAGED IF ALTERNATIVE CAN BE FOUND. (THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL SUCH MEETINGS AUTHORIZED IN THE PAST COUPLE OF MONTHS.) AS FOR SENDING MATERIAL BY POUCH (POINT 4 IN PARA ONE), THIS HAS BEEN EMBASSY RULE AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER (CERTAINLY 1961-63 AND 1971 TO PRESENT).
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